Son of a Cook

Posted originally on the Archive of Our Own at http://archiveofourown.org/works/37902034.

Rating:	Teen And Up Audiences
Archive Warnings:	Graphic Depictions Of Violence, Major Character Death
Categories:	F/M, M/M
Fandoms:	The Legend of Vox Machina (Cartoon), Critical Role (Web Series)
Relationships:	Percival "Percy" Fredrickstein von Musel Klossowski de Rolo III/Archibald Desnay, Keyleth/Vax'ildan (Critical Role), Grog Strongjaw & Pike Trickfoot, Grog Strongjaw/Pike Trickfoot
Characters:	Percival "Percy" Fredrickstein Von Musel Klossowski de Rolo III, Vex'ahlia (Critical Role), Vax'ildan (Critical Role), Scanlan Shorthalt, Grog Strongjaw, Pike Trickfoot, Keyleth (Critical Role), Archibald Desnay
Additional Tags:	Archie lives AU, Percy is a bisexual, Ships are altered
Language:	English
Stats:	Published: 2022-03-22 Words: 1,362 Chapters: 1/?

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by TheBrothersRowe

Summary

As the sword flew down, Percy planted both his hands against Archie's back, shoving the man forward. The ginger staggered back, looking back in time to see the sword cleave through Percy's side. "PERCIVAL!" Archie screamed out, watching him fall to the ground, blood pooling from his wound.

“Scanlan, watch out!” Archie shouted, charging over.

The Duke rushed behind Scanlan, raising his sword high to strike down the gnome. As his sword came down, the strike was blocked by Archie’s ax. “Archie!” Percy tensed, seeing the two battling against each other. Ignoring Vex’s shouts for him to move, Percy rushed over, seeing the Duke raising his sword back up.

No, no! Dammit he was just starting to get them all back, he wasn’t going to lose everyone again!

As the sword flew down, Percy planted both his hands against Archie’s back, shoving the man forward. The ginger staggered back, looking back in time to see the sword cleave through Percy’s side. “PERCIVAL!” Archie screamed out, watching him fall to the ground, blood pooling from his wound. The white haired lord dropped to the ground, the stone soaking with his pooling blood.

As much as he wanted to rip apart the bastard, he could hear the growls from the undead. “Retreat to the Sun Tree!” Archie ordered, hoping some of the rebels were still alive.

Damnit, how had this all gone to Hell so fast?!

A strangled groan filled the air, Archie’s focus snapping over to Percy who was still alive. “Come on you twiddlin buffoon!” Archie rushed over to Percy’s side, helping him stand. The height difference was a struggle. Spotting the two, Vex ran over, helping him with Percy's other side.

“You really have to be so dramatic, darling?” Vex asked, her sarcasm hid her fear very poorly. The wound looked bad, if it was this bad with Percy… she wouldn’t doubt that if the swing had hit Archie, the man wouldn’t be alive.

The two carried Percy the best they could, the gunslinger providing some covering fire as they made it to the tree. “Percy?” Cassandra gasped, hurrying over to her brother’s side. A

terrified expression crossed over the young girls features, her stomach knotting upon seeing her brother's blood.

“It’s just a flesh wound.” Percy remarked, wincing as Vex sat him down on some of the roots. “Shut up you fool, you could have gotten yourself killed.” Vex scowled.

“He’s not doing much better than us guys!” Scanlan shouted, making them all see the dead coming from all around them.

Archie glared, holding his ax as he stared at the horde coming in. “Never thought this is how it’d go for us.” Archie remarked, looking back to see Vex doing her best to patch up Percy with the limited supplies they had.

A smile almost formed on Percy’s face, his skin nearly whiter than his hair, “To think in the same 48 hours, I got my sister and best friend back… and now we’re going to be eaten by the undead.”.

A scoff left Archie, dropping down to one knee to look the man in the eyes. “Don’t say that. Look me in the eyes, Percival.” Archie stated, “You’re a de Rolo. You’re Percival de Rolo. You being here, standing alive, is a sign that change is coming. You are the hope that our people need. You are the hope that Whitestone needs.”. Standing up, Archie offered a hand to Percy, “Now get up. It’s time to speak to your people.”.

“Percy, he’s right. They need you.” Cassandra walked over, putting a hand on her brother’s shoulder.

There was a momentary pause before Percy nodded, taking Archie’s hand. The man winced as he stood, leaning as much as he could on the dwarf. “Careful how much ya lean there, we aren’t that close.” Archie quipped, trying not to think about how close Percy was against him.

“I regret saving you already…” Percy scoffed, standing as straight as he could.

It was a short and simple speech but it had gotten their job done. They were going to reclaim Whitestone, avenge the de Rolos, and murder the Briarwoods. It was time to end this, they refused to go down without a fight. “I hope your aim isn’t ass.” Archie stated.

Percy just scoffed in response, sitting on a root as he loaded the pepperbox. “I could be blind and still aim better than you can swing.” Percy remarked, lifting up his gun, aiming at the incoming horde. All of them crowded back into the tree, ready to fight as the army of the undead came towards them. They came from all angles, all of them fighting the best they could but it wasn’t ending.

“Back up the tree!” Cassandra shouted, helping Archie drag Percy higher up the roots.

Things were looking grim, surrounded from all angles when it happened. The gray sky lit up with a vibrant golden light, all watching in awe as the light blasted down, destroying most of the undead around it. Within the center of the light, a figure was seen, a smile forming on their face as they looked at the others. “Sup.” Pike smirked.

“Is anyone else seeing this..?” Percy asked.

“Don’t worry, Percy. You aren’t seeing the light yet.” Vax remarked.

Pike showing up had really saved them, enchanting their weapons and healing Scanlan’s arm, allowing the bard to play music. After some time the fight had finally ended, cheers filling the air as the crowds took out the Duke and any dead that remained. As the battle calmed down, Pike made her way over to Percy and Cassandra. “I got you, buddy.” She said, placing her hands against Percy’s wound.

A gentle sigh left Percy, relieved as the wound closed up, “Thanks, Pike.”.

“Glad to see you’re okay now.” Archie said as he came over, immediately smacking Percy in the back of the head, “What the hell were ya thinkin?! Were you trying to die?!”.

“I was saving your ass!” Percy retorted, “So a thank you would suffice.”.

“A thank you?! After that bullshit you pulled, dammit you idiot. I knew you were always a fool but this?” Archie scowled.

Pike and Cassandra both made eye contact, silently agreeing to give the two space. The two of them were too busy bickering to even notice the two women walk away, more focused on arguing about who was right.

“You were always a stubborn bastard.” Percy scowled.

“Coming from the one who threw himself in front of a sword!”

“To save your ass!”

“Dammit I can’t lose you again! I lost ya once, I can’t do it again without tellin you that I love you!” Archie shouted out, pausing realizing what he had said.

Percy was about to argue back but stopped as he processed his words. “You… You love me?” Percy asked, staring at him.

Archie grimaced, but sighed out loud. No point in lying about it now after he had shouted it loud enough for all of Whitestone to hear. “Yes, I have since we were little. I wanted to tell ya for a long time but… then everything happened. That’s why I chose the de Rolo symbol for our rebellion. In memory of you and your family. My closest friend and the boy I loved. And then you showed up and I was hit with all these thoughts again. I lost ya once, I can’t stand the thought of it again.”.

“I…” Percy glanced over to see if the other’s were listening, “I have liked you for some time too. But now is not the time to discuss this. We can’t slow down in our path to reclaim Whitestone and kill the Briarwoods.”.

“We’re going to get those bastards out of yer home and we’re going to discuss this. So you better not go throwin yourself in the way of swords again.” Archie said, holding out a hand to help Percy stand up.

A scoff left Percy, taking it, “I doubt you’d be happy if I did,”.

“Damn straight. And Percy?” “Wha-” The human gasped as he was pulled down to his knees, Archie locking lips with him. After a moment Archie pulled away, a smug grin on his face, “Remember that before you think of doing stupid shit.”. Without another word, Archie followed after the others, leaving behind the stunned lord.

“Archibald, you bastard…” Percy mumbled, watching his walk away as a gloved hand touched his lips.

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